Acquisition Reform Success Story

Common Munitions BIT/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE)

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Program Description

The Common Munitions Bit/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is a Joint Service, multi-weapon test system for testing new MIL-STD-1760 compliant munitions. The CMBRE has the capability to run Built-In-Test (BIT) of smart munitions prior to loading on the Aircraft or while in storage, upload/download mission planning data, and GPS crypto keys for munitions used on aircraft not having a MIL-STD-1553 bus at the weapon station interface. The CMBRE is ruggedized and meets Air Force deployment and Navy carrier deck environmental requirements.

How Streamlining Made a Difference

Maintaining DoD Munitions throughout the world is an enormous effort. In the past, support equipment has been developed uniquely for each individual munitions acquisition. In some instances the Air Force and Navy procured different test systems to test the same munitions. This practice has resulted in a proliferation of support equipment for each succeeding munitions system, has been extremely costly, and added to the deployment footprint. The CMBRE program consolidated three separate munitions requirements, the Joint Direct Attack Munition, (JDAM), Joint Stand-Off Weapon (JSOW) and the Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) into a single acquisition. Cost savings will continue to increase as new munitions adopt the CMBRE. The Streamlined Source Selection process allowed the CMBRE program to meet an aggressive schedule without sacrificing the ability to determine the competency and best value being offered by the offerors. The CMBRE program followed MIL-SPEC reform initiatives extensively. This opened up the field of competition that resulted in approximately a 50% lower development and production cost than the Government had estimated. Total estimated savings based on a past procurement of a similar item is $30M. **Bottom Line**: Savings over the entire life cycle of CMBRE system should easily exceed $100M by reducing the deployment footprints and sustainment costs (doing it **cheaper**).

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